

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 445

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the annual Flag Pond Ramp Festival.

WHEREAS, the mountain ramp, an edible root, is a traditional symbol of the unflagging strength and fortitude characteristic of the residents of the Tennessee mountains; and

WHEREAS, this legendary root, distinguished by its odoriferous qualities, is purported to supply unyielding powers that have furthered the chivalrous and intrepid deeds of those who have chosen the mountains for their home; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of East Tennessee, particularly the residents of Flag Pond in Unicoi County, have established the annual Flag Pond Ramp Festival to pay tribute to this exemplary source of sustenance; and

WHEREAS, sponsored and coordinated by the community Ruritan Club, the Flag Pond Ramp Festival occurs during the second weekend of May at the old Flag Pond Elementary School building and grounds; this will be the thirty-third year that the Flag Pond Ramp Festival has been held; and

WHEREAS, the very first festival was purposed as a fundraising dinner, and the menu consisted of ramps and fried potatoes with approximately 200 guests attending; and

WHEREAS, today, the Flag Pond Ramp Festival boasts an attendance of nearly 1,500, with visitors coming from neighboring counties to celebrate the delectable root; and

WHEREAS, the festivities include area bluegrass and country music performances; clogging groups; a ramp eating contest; and a menu of fried potatoes, ramps, soup beans, coleslaw, corn bread, and side meat; and

WHEREAS, proceeds raised by the Ramp Festival go to a variety of charitable causes and organizations, including the American Cancer Society, the Unicoi County Veterans

Memorial Park, the Unicoi County Relay for Life, local citizens falling on hard financial times, and scholarships for students in the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to this time-honored festival, acknowledging the contributions that the ramp has made to the betterment of the community, and encourage all true mountain enthusiasts, genuine ramp eaters, and bluegrass music lovers to celebrate with the citizens of Flag Pond; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and honor the many good citizens who help coordinate the annual Flag Pond Ramp Festival and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.